

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/686,620

Examiner

Justin R. Fischer

Applicant(s)

DAHLBERG ET AL

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1733

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 16 December 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7 (renumbered 1-6).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>011106</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment _____                                  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                       |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on January 11, 2006, Nancy Krawczyk requested an extension of time for 1 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 07-1725 the required fee of \$120.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

Claim 6, Line 6: the word --molded-- is inserted before the word "axial".

2. Claims 2-7 (renumbered 1-6) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

~~While not conventional, it is known to form a wheel assembly in which the tire~~  
has a molded axial bead width that is less than or equal to the rim distance (distance between junctions defined by intersection of rim flange and bead seat). One example of

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such a construction is Tokutake (US 5,117,886). In this instance, the smaller axial bead width contributes to an improvement in cornering power/vehicle turning performance.

The claims, on the other hand, are directed to a runflat tire construction having a pair of sidewall reinforcing inserts and the above noted bead/rim arrangement. As shown for example by Sandstrom (US 6,230,773), the general concept of including sidewall reinforcing inserts to form a runflat tire construction is known in the tire industry.

However, "runflat" tire constructions are designed to operate over an extended period of time in an underinflated condition (otherwise known as EMT or extended mobility tires) and in such instances, the tire relies on strong forces to remain seated on the rim.

These forces are obtained by forming the tire with a larger axial bead width than the rim width and subsequently mounting the tire on the rim, in which case the tire bead regions push out against the associated rim portions and provide a high degree of securement.

Thus, while the general concept of runflat tires is known in the tire industry, there is not a reasonable expectation of success in forming the tire of Tokutake as a runflat tire- one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have expected the tire of Tokutake, modified with Sandstrom, to provide suitable runflat characteristics in accordance to the standards of the tire industry.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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**Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Justin R. Fischer** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1215**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Justin Fischer

January 13, 2006